AERMOD Implementation

AERMOD was promulgated by the EPA on November 9, 2005 as the preferred refined air dispersion model for predicting near field (<50-km) pollutant concentrations resulting from primary emissions of stationary sources of air pollution. December 9, 2006 is the effective date of this change and, beginning on this date, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SC DHEC) will expect refined models submitted for the purposes of demonstrating compliance with ambient air quality standards to be submitted in the AERMOD platform. Alternate models can be considered for special cases as provided for in 40 CFR 51.3.2.

During the period prior to December 9, SC DHEC will accept refined air dispersion models in either AERMOD or the model that it is replacing, ISCST3. The SC DHEC Bureau of Air Quality (BAQ) web site contains links to all the files needed for running the AERMOD model. Since changes are expected in the AERMOD executable files, as well as the supporting data files, model users should check the EPA Support Center for Regulatory Atmospheric Modeling (SCRAM, http://www.epa.gov/scram001/) and BAQ web sites for guidance prior to submitting modeling to SC DHEC and to insure that the latest files have been used.

During the coming months, SC DHEC will be working to update the BAQ Air Quality Modeling Guidelines to conform to the changes brought about by AERMOD. In the meantime, the Air Modeling Section will be available to provide guidance and help in moving to the AERMOD modeling platform. Users should contact John Glass (803-898-4074, glassjp@dhec.sc.gov) of the Air Modeling Section with questions about this or any other air dispersion modeling issue.